

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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PORTION OF SAGINAW HILL TO BE FENCED AND CLOSED

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Tucson Field Office will be fencing and closing to the public 290 acres of Saginaw Hill, located southwest of Tucson. The fencing project will take about two weeks to complete. The BLM has been testing soil and groundwater samples from the site in preparation for a report that will recommend clean up methods. Soil samples tested revealed additional areas of high levels of contamination, although none of the materials has migrated from the site.

"Because of the additional areas found to have high levels of these toxic materials, we are fencing and closing this area to prevent contact with the public. The fence will also provide a safety zone when clean up of the site begins," said Cindy Alvarez, acting Field Manager for the Tucson office. "We hope the public will respect the fencing, and call us if they notice vandalism or trespassing." Fencing previously erected around several of the mine waste sites has been vandalized; recently, a chain link fence was rammed by a vehicle.

The BLM has already fenced several acres within the 540-acres that contain elevated levels of arsenic and lead from mining activity conducted during the last century. Twenty acres were also formally closed to the public in April 2005. The new closure allows BLM to apply penalties for trespassing, including fines of no more than \$1,000, or imprisonment of no more than 12 months. Public land regulations apply to the area and prohibit all vehicles from off-road use and trash dumping. The area was closed to shooting in 1991.

For more information on the closure or to report any illegal activity or vandalism, the public can call the BLM Tucson Field Office at 520.258.7200 during regular business hours. To report any emergency, call 911.